



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Council President Roger Berliner

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CONTACT: Cindy Gibson 240-777-7827 / Neil H. Greenberger 240-777-7939

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Council President Berliner Commends Governor's Announcement of Locally Preferred Alternative for the Corridor Cities Transitway

Choice of Rapid Transit Will Get Project Done Sooner

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 11, 2012—Montgomery County Council President Roger Berliner today commended Governor O'Malley's choice of rapid transit as the locally preferred alternative for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), a planned 15 mile transitway from the Shady Grove Metrorail station in Rockville to near the COMSAT facility in Clarksburg.

Governor O'Malley made his announcement this morning. Built as rapid transit, the CCT would cost approximately half of what it would cost as light rail, a mode that has also been considered. The ongoing operating costs of rapid transit are also expected to be less than that of light rail.

"I commend the Governor on his selection of rapid transit as the locally preferred alternative for the CCT," said Berliner, Chair of the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee. "Rapid transit will provide our residents with an easy, cost-efficient transit alternative for north-south travel and play a key role in achieving the economic development goals for the corridor. I am pleased the Governor's recommendation is consistent with our County's preference for rapid transit, particularly since building the system as rapid transit means it will be finished much, much sooner, and at a significantly lower cost."

Rapid transit is expected to allow for greater flexibility than would light rail, both in rider experience and in financing. Rapid transit vehicles can be routed in such a way that could eliminate a transfer for riders in some cases.

“Rapid transit on the CCT has the added benefit of fitting seamlessly into what I hope will be a Countywide rapid transit network,” Berliner said, referring to the 161-mile system currently being studied by the County’s Transit Task Force. The report of the Transit Task Force is expected to be released later this month.

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